

1. An artificial disc replacement (ADR) configured for placement between
2 two vertebral bodies having a medial-lateral orientation and anterior and posterior
portions, the ADR comprising:

4 opposing endplate components, each fixed to a respective one of the vertebral
bodies;

6 a cushioning component disposed between the opposing endplate components;
and

8 anterior and posterior features that permit a predetermined, limited, movement of
the endplate components relative to one another.

2. The ADR of claim 1, wherein the anterior and posterior features permit a
2 predetermined, limited degree of flexion.

3. The ADR of claim 1, wherein the anterior and posterior features permit a
2 predetermined, limited degree of extension.

4. The ADR of claim 1, wherein the anterior and posterior features permit a
2 predetermined, limited degree of lateral bending.

5. The ADR of claim 1, wherein the anterior and posterior features permit a
2 predetermined, limited degree of translocation.

6. The ADR of claim 1, wherein:

2 the opposing endplate components have overlapping medial and lateral portions;
and

4 the features are axles that extend through the overlapping lateral portions.

7. The ADR of claim 6, including a pair of axles, one in the anterior portion
2 and another in the posterior portion.

8. The ADR of claim 6, wherein one of the axles extends through an
2 oversized aperture formed in an overlapping portion that allows the limited relative
movement of the endplate components.

9. The ADR of claim 1, wherein:
2 the opposing endplate components have overlapping lateral portions; and
the anterior and posterior physical features include mating projections and
4 depressions associated with the overlapping lateral portions.